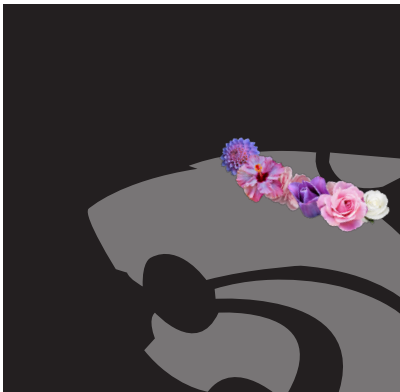




# THE JAGUAR Journal



## HAPPY TRAILS TO THE GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Maggie Varrelmann  
Staff Writer



Mr. Taylor poses in front of his students' graphic designs as he reflects on his teaching career.

When hearing the words “Fine Arts” one tends to think about the band, the musical productions, or even the Studio Art program. Most people do not think about the Graphic Communications curriculum, but for Mr. Taylor and a wide range of students, it means the world to them. Mr. Taylor has been teaching for 33 years, with 27 of them being right here at Jackson Memorial. It is clear that he likes JMHS the best!

To truly understand who Mr. Taylor is, it is important to know where his teaching career all began. As a young man in high school, Mr. Taylor loved the graphic arts. It is safe to say that it was his favorite part of the school day. In fact, his high school days are one of the main reasons that he is a teacher today. When the doors of his high school closed behind him as he graduated, the appreciation and passion for the graphics field was still pretty much alive. As he headed off to Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey), he gained an even greater devotion to graphics and photography, if that was even possible! Throughout the course of his college years, Mr. Taylor knew for a fact that he wanted to find a job doing what he loved. Within the program that he was in at college, the teaching profession was just one of the...

Story Continued on Page 3.



## FBLA STATE CONFERENCE

Dylan Miller  
Staff Writer



(left to right: back row) Jessica Towns, Samantha Pomponio, Mrs. Iwaszczenko, Ryan Mer-  
cidante, Mrs. Hall, Nick Vitale, Jordan Princiotta, Amit Mysore, Dylan Miller, and Mr. Nye  
(kneeling) Dietra Smith, Jessica Saltz, Eileen Brown, and Jessica Kutney  
(not pictured: Mrs. Sedeyn)

competed in various events, including “Intro to Financial Math,” in which our very own Sam Pomponio participated, as well as “Insurance and Risk Management,” both Public Speaking I and II, “Emerging Business Issues,” “Business Ethics,” and “Digital Video Production.” In fact, the team of Jess Saltz, Jordan Princiotta, and our own Dylan Miller (who competed in the “Digital Video Production” event and pioneered a new on-site event known as “Open Event: Education”), placed first in the state in both events they competed in. This means that they are eligible to compete at the National Leadership Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia over the summer.

Another success JMHS FBLA had at the conference was the election of sophomore Alexis Casella as the Central Region Vice President. By becoming a state officer, Alexis is now following the footsteps of both of her older sisters; you could say that the “Casella Legacy” is now complete. This is not the first time JMHS has been home to an FBLA State officer, however. Did you know that JMHS FBLA has had three NJ FBLA state presidents? (Carole McCarthy, 1976-77; Tammy A. Hoefer, 1980-81; and Seema Samuel, 2005-06)

While not everyone who attended the conference won, everyone who attended did have a blast. From networking with other chapters to learning new skills at workshops to campaigning and competing, the overall experience was fantastic. We wish everyone moving on to Nationals the best of luck and hope to see even more Jaguars at the state conference next year.

If you would like to join our school’s FBLA chapter, please speak to Mrs. Iwaschenko, Mr. Nye, Ms. Sedyn, or visit their Twitter (@JMHSFBLA).

On February 18th-19th members of the JMHS chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) (@JMHSFBLA) travelled to Atlantic City, NJ for the NJ FBLA State Leadership Conference to compete, perform, and “generate greatness.” And that they did! Memorial students



# HERE’S THE PROMBLEM:

Jillian Parinello & Anna Fenton  
Editor-In-Chief     Contributor

**S** muddy spraytans, failed promposals, and that perfect size 0 dress that you just have to fit into- the sweet aroma of prom season is in the air. We’ve all been there- fawning over that Sherri Hill dress that costs \$800, which took you all summer at Six Flags or the Outlets to earn. We’ve all fangirled over the promposals on Twitter that we’ll never get. Exciting to most, but the chaos of this season isn’t always as *promising* as it may seem.

## Promblem #1 Dress Shopping (140 Days, 20 hours, 23 minutes, and 16 seconds until Prom)

The best part...and the worst part- dress shopping. For months, we’ve all been fantasizing over the perfect dress: Two piece or one piece? Strapless or sleeves? Fitted or flowy? The questions are endless, but the bottom line is that you have already formulated the vision of your dream dress...in July.

The day has come when you set out to search for that Kleinfeld moment when you can say “yes” to the dress. Your plans are made, your cash is burning a hole in your pocket, and you finally arrive at the perfect boutique and... a two hour wait?! Yup, the sad truth is that prom dress shopping has evolved from a simple purchase to a glamorous production (All sales are final). **Then** you enter the chamber of rhinestones, tulle, lace, taffeta, and indecision- the only place where a trumpet can be mistaken for a mermaid. Nothing says overwhelming like the endless rows of sheer garment bags that hold your future. Before we get into the adventures of trying on, there are three things you must know about dress shopping:

1. You may not find something your first time out.
2. Not everything will fit or look flattering.
3. You will most likely go over your budget (Thanks mom).

Here comes the nightmare: the dress that you printed off Pinterest looks like a bedsheet...but you still won’t be getting any sleep tonight. Once your ideal dress is out the window, there goes the hair, the makeup, and the shoes you already bought. Back to the drawing board! Whether you go to Castle Couture, Park Avenue South, Diane and Company, or the mall, try to enjoy the chaos of dress shopping as much as you can. Once you have your dress, you are subjecting yourself to the infamous Instagram page. What began as a medium for avoiding dress repeats has evolved into every junior or senior girl’s guilty pleasure for the next five months. Miraculously, everybody becomes a prom dress specialist just in time for the posts.

2 When June 10th finally arrives, and the



Cartoon by: Laila Rich

Instagram page comes to life as you see 200 of the prettiest dresses jump off your phone screen, the madness of dress shopping, alterations, and judgment comes to a highly anticipated end. At last, the night to remember is free of dress stress. After all, this is your last hoorah with the “friends who’ve been there all along” (as per *High School Musical 3*). These are the friends that you went to your first football game with, the ones who took you sledding at Elms on your snow days, the friends who were with you through every roller coaster ride.... at Great Adventure or the St. Al’s Carnival. What you need to remember is not to buy into the chaos of dress season. After all, we’re all in this together...

## Promblem #2 Makeup and Hair

Step 2: The year’s best deal on bobby pins: it’s inevitable...by the end of the night we will all be climbing the Mt. Everest of hair pins that we reluctantly yanked out of the hair spray sculpture atop our heads. Not only did that updo cost you \$100, but you spent months of uncertainty about clinching that hair appointment (and don’t forget about the makeup). The hunger games of spring beauty: prom hair and makeup appointments. Here you are...it’s late January...and still no hair appointment and you’re already thinking about skipping prom (it’s not like you’ve been planning this night since you were twelve). Evidently, you weren’t the only one with this idea because now the earliest appointment available is 8PM...at least you’ll look fresh at the after party. Unfortunately, hair is just the beginning. The makeup counters at the mall fill up just as quickly. For those of you brave and artistic souls, congrats! This isn’t an issue on your radar. The rest of us will be throwing hands at the Macy’s kiosk just in time to pick up the veggie tray before rushing to the pre party where we can pretend we are excited to see these people who, in reality, we are just hoping don’t smudge our foundation with their hug.

We all know the agonizing scrutiny that

comes with picking the perfect look to go with your dress. The Internet has graced us with magical guides for choosing the correct hair and makeup style...should you commit the sin of sporting a side pony with a V-neck dress.

Oh, prom...the one day of the year where it is socially acceptable to completely mask your face...and enjoy it. The struggle of prom makeup is **real**. Don’t get us wrong, it is arguably the best part. The inner Sharpay Evans emerges from all of us while sitting back in that styling chair, feet up, embracing the Buzz by Urban Decay eyeshadow getting caked onto our eyelids. What could feel more *fabulous* than ocular discomfort? But we have no choice but to address the horrors of prom day makeup.

Though we may be unable to eat or drink in fear of smudging the Mac lipstick that cost more than gas for the month, it will all be worth it. Despite all the struggles of getting ready for prom, the stress will fade...but the makeup won’t if you use the right setting spray.

## Promblem #3 Dates, Tables, and Plans

A major catalyst in most unnecessary arguments this time of year...prom plans. Fun fact: whose house you spend thirty minutes taking pictures at and whose table you spend approximately twenty minutes sitting at, won’t matter...like ever.

The impending danger of prom taking over our lives is indicated through the evolution of...*the prom date*. Believe it or not, once upon a time, there were people who simply asked “Will you go to prom with me?” Today, promposals are giving proposals a run for their money. While the rising epidemic of promposing is totally cute, it often flirts with the line of insanity. Whether it’s food, TV references, scavenger hunts, or even excessive gift-giving, promposing has become remarkably creative...and...well...we will leave it at *creative*. With that being said, if you are a person who executes thoughtful and creative promposals, keep doing you (we love your Instagram pictures).

We all like to scrutinize over the very minute details of prom, and that’s okay. With every maddening question raised by prom planning, don’t forget to ask yourself if it will be of any importance the following day. If the answer is no, don’t sweat it.

## Promblem #4 Beauty is Pain

There is really nothing that captures the essence of prom season quite like an overpriced gel manicure and a dangerously itchy artificial tan. The forty-eight hours leading up to prom are filled with painful joy. The real excitement sets in when you are getting your nails done the day before. Even though you may avoid touching EVERYTHING so you don’t chip a nail, it exudes the feeling that prom is finally upon

us. The day of, however, is when everything comes together. The epitome of “pain is beauty” occurs on prom day when you can’t eat all day between the anxiety and the fact that your dress is fitted.

## Promblem #5 Dieting

Come April 1st, the detox waters and Special K bars will emerge. Not only are most of us under the impression that we have to be *skinnier* to look good at prom, but some of us are fixated on numbers. You would think the tag is placed on the outside of the dress based on how many girls *need* to fit into the size 2 dress. I think we have all been prom dress shopping enough to come to one conclusion: **Every brand runs differently**. (Please read the preceding sentence approximately six more times.) While all of these prom designers have done wonders in creating unique and beautiful dresses for us to fawn over, it is clear that Sherri Hill, Jovani, Dave and Johnny, Terani, La Femme, Mac Duggal, Alyce, and every other designer did **not** have a conference to get on the same page for sizes. You can be an 8 in one brand in a 0 in another. Get the dress you love and the dress that fits...do **not** pay attention to the number. While it is always a good idea to eat right and exercise, don’t change your whole life for prom.

Ultimately, the madness of prom season is too real to not be **addressed**. This high school event has evolved into a production of the grandest scale. So here is the **com-promise**: embrace the chaos. Splurge for the dream dress, go along with the elaborate promposal, and take way too many pictures. At the same time, keep in mind that this is the end. Prom indicates the last time you can have fun with **everyone** who has surrounded you since pre-school. Take it in, and cherish the moment before it is gone. After all, we are only weeks away from ...



“Happy Trails to the Graphic Designer” Continued...



Mr. Taylor and Mr. DiEugenio

options. Mr. Taylor’s father was a teacher so he decided to try it.

According to Mr. Taylor, “Once you get started, there is no turning back” and so he continued on his graphically designed path. Mr. Taylor quickly found out that he loved teaching and almost instantly knew that it was something he wanted to be doing for the rest of his life. That was the moment he officially decided to become a teacher. As a very important staff member at JMHS, Mr. Taylor has been teaching Graphic Communications I, II, and III as well as part of the Digital Media Academy.

From the moment Mr. Taylor stepped through the doors of Jackson Memorial up until his last year of teaching, there has been a great amount of change. The computer, believe it or not, has been one of the biggest changes. When Mr. Taylor first accepted the job at Jackson Memorial he had never operated a computer before. He was not familiar with the programs on the computer and had never even turned one on. When he was in his graphics classes, they used darkrooms and some sort of typewriter machine. This just meant that the process was so much longer and tiring. In this situation, the teacher became a student once again. As he was teaching the waves of incoming students, he was learning new things as well. To make things even more challenging, there was only one computer to use. The introduction of the cell phone came in a very close second to the computer. If the addition of the cell phone into the classroom could be described in one word, Mr. Taylor hit it on the nose - “weird.” Kids are no longer 100 percent focused on their work and are too busy doing other “stuff.” As the years went

on, Mr. Taylor came to the conclusion that kids are going to be kids and that what is important to them is going to change throughout his teaching career. Speaking of the kids, they are what Mr. Taylor is going to miss the most. Even though he feels as if that is what every teacher says, he truly means it. Besides, he said, “Jackson kids have always been good kids”! The students are not going to be the only thing on Mr. Taylor’s mind as he says “See you later” to Memorial. He always loved how things were different every single day and how he would have to come up with new ways

of solving problems. He liked how certain things were just big puzzles that he had to solve and figure out how to fix.

Mr. Taylor has exceeded every challenge expected of him. He goes above and beyond his requirements as a teacher and loves to help out anybody that he can. The spring musical mentioned in the very beginning of this article would not be the same without the playbill full of cast members, family shout outs, boosters from the cast and crew, and advertisements for a variety of companies. If it were not for Mr. Taylor, the thousands of attendees would be clueless about who’s playing whom and would no longer have a souvenir to take home with them. They would not even have a free autograph booklet for their favorite actors and actresses. From the very first musical the school ever put on to this year’s production of Into the Woods, Mr. Taylor has done it all. He has printed out every playbill for every musical production. In addition to that, he prints out Honor Society pamphlets for induction ceremonies and so much more. While you are reading this, flip to page three and look at the black staff box. The Jaguar Journal staff and this reporter are extremely proud of all the hard work that Mr. Taylor has put into being our Graphics Advisor. He approves of the layout, prints out every copy, and sends them over to our Newspaper Advisors. The Jackson School District would be at a great loss without Mr. Taylor as he does a great amount of work for everybody. For example, he prints out the scholarship fund booklet for the district. There is even a scholarship dedicated to Mr. Taylor’s father. Mr. Taylor has no problem taking on this



heavy workload as he enjoys doing what he loves.

There is not a single project that Mr. Taylor can call his favorite as he loves them all equally. When asked this question in a recent interview, he said that his favorite part about the projects was the idea of the students taking them home, hanging them up, and keeping them forever. He is very proud of one project in particular, however. That is because he invented what he likes to call “the cube.” This wonderful project features all of the past designs of the students with six sides revealing projects such as a comic, stamp, logo, and vector graphics. Mr. Taylor’s main goal when teaching is to keep it fun. He wants his students to have fun and enjoy what they are doing in class. He understands that a wide range of students come through his door, including the artists, the jocks, and the A.P. geniuses, and he has to work around each one of their talents. For those of you who have taken a class with Mr. Taylor, you will agree with me when I say that he does everything he can to make the class interesting, such as candy Fridays. I do not know about the Helvetica movie, though, as it seemed to go on forever. While the movie provided plenty of information on the typeface, it could have been summed up in twenty minutes or less.

While he does not try to draw attention to himself, Mr. Taylor’s achievements have earned him several awards. Some of these accolades came from South Jersey at craftsmanship competitions, but the one that holds the most value in Mr. Taylor’s eyes was granted to him right here. Being Teacher of the Year has been the greatest award that Mr. Taylor has ever achieved for his teaching. “That meant something to me. To be recognized by your fellow teachers proves that you do care...” These are the words that Mr.

Taylor chose to use when telling this reporter how proud he was of his Teacher of the Year Award. Mr. Taylor has been impressed by many other teachers and the amount of work they put in every year. The one teacher that came to his mind right away was his across the hall buddy Mrs. Allaire. Math teachers also inspire him as he knows that he could never teach Geometry in a million years. It is nice to see that teachers can encourage each other. Mr. Taylor has even inspired former students to continue in the graphics profession after completing their education. For example, he has had a student go on to work for designing packaging at Hot Wheels, the toy manufacturer. As for the new graphics teacher coming next year, Mr. Taylor has some advice - you need to be ready and willing to work with everybody.

As for retirement, Mr. Taylor said that it is going to be weird. This is because he will not have to wake up at 4:15 a.m. anymore and will be able to catch up on his sleep. When the end of the school year comes, Mr. Taylor is moving to Delaware with his wife. He is looking forward to traveling, and then after the holidays, he is planning on obtaining another job but does not know what kind of job just yet. Right now, Mr. Taylor is training for a half marathon because he loves running almost as much as he loves graphics. He also enjoys watching his son’s band play and going to the beach. Wow! Mr. Taylor is a busy man!

Thank you Mr. Taylor for all that you have done for us and continue to do! This reporter will surely miss having you as a teacher as it has been one fun and exciting experience! We are honored to have you here at JMHS with us and would like to wish you a happy retirement!



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# MR. McCORMICK’S RETIREMENT GIFT: MUSIC BENCH

Nicole Harmon  
Staff Writer



Mr. McCormick’s bench was donated to the school by the band parents. It is located on “Bud’s Way” outside of the band room. The parents also had a bench made that sits outside his house.

Everyone knows Mr. “Bud” McCormick and that he retired, but maybe you haven’t heard of the gifts given to him for his well-earned retirement. The Band Parents presented Mr. McCormick with two custom made benches. He took one home, and the school accepted the second one as a gift. In fact, you can see that bench right outside the band room. The bench weighs about sixty pounds and the wrought iron part was made by an Amish man in New Holland, PA. from a company called Iron

Art and Design. The piano keys on the bench were made by Mr. Young, the president of the Band Parent Association, out of PVC and black marble. Needless to say, the benches were a pleasant surprise. In addition to the bench, he and his wife were given a clock carved from an album that Mr. Young also made. They were also given tickets to see the Broadway play, *An American in Paris*, as well as dinner tickets from the band and color guard.

## A REVIEW OF *THE LIFE OF PABLO*

Dylan Miller  
Staff Writer

On February 14th, 2016 Kanye West released his latest album, *The Life of Pablo*, exclusively on the “high fidelity” music streaming service, Tidal. But that’s only the somewhat end of the story. Because of West’s decision to limit the release of the album, it has gone relatively unheard, despite being a fantastic work of art. And that’s the thing: it’s art. *The Life of Pablo* (henceforth: TLOP), when listened to as a collection of singles, which is what the modern album has seemingly become, is not as strong as it is when listened to as a whole. The way in which each song flows into the next is perfect. This past week or so I’ve been listening to West’s entire discography on shuffle (something that I highly recommend), and every time a TLOP song comes on, two things occur: I become beyond excited for the journey I’m about to be taken on; and, when the song ends, I anticipate the beginning of the next song off of the album. For instance, one of my favorite songs off of the album, and one of the most controversial, “Famous”, ends abruptly, allowing “Feedback”, yet another one of my favorites, to swoop in with its abrasive, unfamiliar sound. That in itself is something that Kanye is a master at: the production of new and different sound. Regarding his newer works, he is frequently criticized (musically) for not having the most sophisticated or sensical lyrics. In fact, I recently found myself in a debate over the current state of music, in which the other people discredited West and other rap artists

for their lyrics, calling them out for not being “inspirational”; I’ll give them that, to some extent. Overall, the album is beautiful, haunting, and worth the hoops needed to jump through to listen to it. Now, I’d love to give a full breakdown and review of every song off of the album, but I think that would be too long to print! If that is something you’re interested in, visit one of my favorite websites: *genius.com*. So instead, I’m going to try and contain my love for this album and try to keep my comments brief. TLOP opens with what can only be described as “gospel... with a whole lot of cursing,” something West described the entire album as. The opening track, “Ultralight Beams,” is a five-minute emotional and spiritual experience featuring a magnificent choir and the “feature of the century,” as I saw it described online once, from Chance the Rapper. Following is “Father Stretch My Hands parts 1 and 2,” each of which are quite different but continue the theme of juxtaposing religious imagery with the explicit nature of West’s lyrics. Personally, I prefer “Pt. 2” because of its more invigorating beat and overall sound. Next comes the aforementioned “Famous” and “Feedback.” “Famous” is the song that has the now infamous Taylor Swift line, which she commented on in her Grammy acceptance speech. Looking purely at the work and not the implications of it, the song is great, featuring Rihanna and a magnificent reworking of a sample from the dancehall legend Sister Nancy’s “Bam Bam.” “Feedback” derives its name from the main “instrument” of the song, which is meant to replicate the generally

unpleasant sound of microphone feedback. At first, the song turned me off, but eventually it grew on you, becoming one of your favorites. Three of the next four songs (“Low Lights”, “Freestyle 4”, and “I Love Kanye”) I can describe in one anecdote: when I hear the first beat, I tend to skip them. “Highlights”, which follows “Low Lights”, is a very good song that chronicles the highlights of West’s career and again reverts back to the theme of the album, this time incorporating the grand nature of gospel with a smattering of expletives. “Waves”, what a song. Simply fantastic. The beat, the chorus, everything is amazing. Ironically, it almost wasn’t on the album. Taking a turn for the dark, “FML” is up next, featuring a gorgeous chorus sung by The Weeknd and an overall drab tone. Of the next six songs, one (“Silver Surfer Intermission”) is literally just a message left on an answering machine (it has significance in the production of the album, but nothing that matters to the average listener); four can be found on Soundcloud as singles (“Real Friends”, which has a tear-jerking beat, “30 Hours”, and “No More Parties in LA”, featuring Kendrick Lamar) and as such I won’t comment; and one is a remix of a song that can also be found on Soundcloud (“FACTS”). In this sequence of songs, one can find “Wolves.” What can be said about this song? First premiered on SNL’s 40th anniversary special with features from Sia and Vic Mensa, the one of the initial glimpses into Kanye’s latest project was indicative of just what was to come. Though the album version is very obviously missing both Sia and Mensa, it is just beautiful. Actual-

ly, West tweeted “Ima fix wolves”, likely meaning he will record and release a version featuring both of the song’s original artists and likely its original lyrics. Finally, TLOP concludes with “Fade.” The driving beat of this song and the sample which it is based off of makes it one of the few “hype” songs on the album, but boy is it a way to conclude the ride. And that’s it, a comment on (almost) all of the 18 songs from Kanye West’s TLOP. But did you think that’s where the story ends? Have you ever heard of Kanye West? Nothing is that simple with him. The release of the album can only be described as a colossal debacle, including a “listening party” held at Madison Square Garden in conjunction with the premiere of “Yeezy Season 3”, West’s newest fashion line, that was broadcast to movie theaters around the world. The weeks (and days) leading up to TLOP’s release also saw three name changes, going from *So Help Me God* to *SWISH* to *Waves* and finally *The Life of Pablo*, and several tracklist changes. If it is to be believed, the actual master versions of the sum of the songs were being finished just days before the album’s release. And the term “release” itself is a strange way to describe the current way in which one must go about listening to TLOP. Currently, as mentioned before, it is only available on JAY Z’s Tidal, a streaming service so small and disliked it fails to even be mentioned on many breakdowns of the music streaming industry. Not to mention the album art: an abstract mess of words on a bright orange background and a picture from West’s parents’ wedding, all arranged by artist

Peter De Potter; a true metaphor for the album, as it is an insane collection of artistic pieces of music. The alternative album cover is a whole other story, tastefully juxtaposing the same wedding photo with an Instagram photo of model Sheniz H and begging the question: “WHICH/ONE”, as in, which Pablo is he referring to? Picasso? Escobar? Neruda? Paul the Apostle? (Yes, that is one possible explanation for the album’s title.) Now I think we’ve covered everything; well, everything important really. There was a Twitter feud between West and Wiz Khalifa, and West did go on many Twitter rants in the lead up to the album’s release. Some of the cringiest moments included when he proclaimed Bill Cosby, accused of sexual assault by over 50 women, to be “innocent” (despite having a line on “FACTS” that criticizes Cosby) and that he is in “53 million dollars in personal debt,” going so far as to publicly beg Mark Zuckerberg to “invest 1 billion dollars into Kanye West ideas.” Much can be said for the current state of music, and much can be said for the current state of Kanye West. He’s a bigger than life, polarizing character that makes amazing, revolutionary music, questionable, cringe-worthy remarks, and really, really weird fashion. From the beginning, he’s been a person so divisive that the mere mention of his name causes some people to shout with joy and others to shout in anger. Some may say he’s gone off the deep end, but, as the man himself said, “name one genius that ain’t crazy.”



# JAGUAR OPINION

## COMPUTER CODING IS NOW A “FOREIGN LANGUAGE”

*Ben Singleton*  
*Staff Writer*

In several states a computer science class has taken on a second role. In places such as Kentucky, Florida, and Texas, the class that is centered around teaching coding languages now fills a foreign language requirement. And to remain ahead of the curve, New Jersey schools should follow suit. For many students, choosing a language class can be difficult, but with this change it would allow more flexibility, enjoyment, and interest in the classes a student takes.

Jackson Memorial currently offers a wide range of courses that allows students to follow a multitude of career paths after graduation. The first time you look at the program of studies document (a list of all classes, academies and programs in the school) you may be quite overwhelmed to see just how many courses JMHS offers. The variety of courses allows students to find subjects they like and enjoy.

Including computer coding as a language requirement would allow students who aren't interested in a language to take computer science instead. It also exposes them to a new subject that feeds into rapidly growing employment opportunities.

Though it may seem far-fetched, computer science and a foreign language are actually similar enough to justify this change of course requirements. Java Script and Spanish, for instance, are both logic-based languages that require practice and continued

use to become fluent; in addition, both have their own grammatical requirements needed to convey a message. At its core Java Script, C++, or Python are no different than Spanish, German or French. One just happens to be a form of communication between people and the other communication between people and computers. Allowing computer science to fill a foreign language requirement will help to add flexibility and enjoyment to

the classes students take. Increasing options for students and exposing them to new fields of studies is a positive development in the high school curriculum. In this ever-changing world, computer science has become more and more relevant; students will greatly benefit from learning one of the many coding languages.



*Image from Google Images*

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# THE JOURNEY TO THE TOURNEY

*Trey Owens*  
*Staff Writer*

Excitement. Hope. Astonishment. Despair. Watching college basketball brings all these things and then some when tournament season begins it only intensifies. This year has been as crazy as ever with no true #1 team in the nation and as teams in the top 10 have been subject to upsets on a weekly basis. However, this is not a bad thing. With everyone being relatively even, everybody has more of a chance than ever. Who will rise above the so-called mediocrity of teams and become the champion of the college basketball world? We're already in tournament season and we've seen quite a few spectacular plays and moments (Texas A&M miracle double OT win, UNIs half court dagger, Michigan State's historic defeat). Now we're in the Sweet 16. In my eyes there are a solid five teams with true title hopes: Kansas, Maryland, UNC, Duke, and Oklahoma. There are legitimate reasons why all these teams can, and cannot, win this year and let's find out.

**Kansas: (Big 12)** The Kansas Jayhawks have a fantastic offensive team led by Senior Power forward Perry Ellis. They shoot as well as any team in the country, but their biggest problem is their overall perimeter defense is lackluster at best. They have the moxie and toughness you need at tournament time not to succumb to the pressure, and they've beaten very good teams so far in the season (Oklahoma, Oklahoma state, and Baylor). They play better defense in the post and grab boards like no one else in their conference which could come up huge in crunch time.

**Maryland: (Big Ten)** Of all the teams I've mentioned

they have the most true talent. Point guard Melo Trimble, one of the best guards in the country, is a guaranteed 1st round pick in next year's draft and is as clutch as they come, along with freshman center Diamond Stone. Just earlier this year, Trimble hit a game winning 3 at the buzzer against Wisconsin. They have potential NBA caliber players at their forwards in Robert Carter and Jake Layman, and the team plays great quality defense and leads the Big Ten in total defense. They could have something special brewing here in Terp nation if they just stay consistent.

**North Carolina: (ACC)** They were the preseason no. 1 team in the nation for a reason - great coaching and one of the best rotations in the game. Brice Johnson continues to amaze me with his ability to get points and crash the boards. He had one of the best games of the year for any player in a loss to Duke (29 pts 19 rebs). Point guard Marcus Paige also has that rare clutch gene and always seems to play his best when the game is on the line. As a whole, their Achilles Heel (get it since they are the Tar Heels) is their inability to hit the long ball. It cost them in games this year (1-13 from three against Duke). An absolute meltdown is likely to be avoided due to their big men and coaching, but how far can you go when you can't hit a shot past 20 feet?

**Duke: (ACC)** The defending champions from last year are certainly not the same team since losing three starters to the NBA. They have some deficiencies and aren't as dominant as the other teams listed here, but they have something no one else has - Mike Krzyzewski, one of the greatest college coaches of all time. He constantly leads teams year in and year out with cham-

pionship aspirations, and I will not be one to count out a team coached by this man. And lastly, their best player Grayson Allen, averages a solid 20 points per game and can carry the team on his back if needed since he's one of the best offensive forces in the game.

**Oklahoma: (Big 12)** Oklahoma is different than every team I've mentioned so far. They rely heavily on the 3 point shot, and they have the most explosive team in the count superstar Buddy Hield. He averages 25 a game and is, without question, the best offensive player in college basketball. They can score with the best of them, and their other guards shoot the ball very well. Their defense is satisfactory in their big men, but they lack the depth of other teams, so that could be a bad issue if foul trouble persists. One other reason for concern is what if they have an off game from 3? They're one dimensional and could be in serious trouble against a versatile defense that makes them do more than they're accustomed to doing.

My pick to win it all is Maryland. They have the most complete roster in the league, best overall talent, and to top it all off, they play great defense. As a wise man once said, defense wins championships, and this saying has remained true since its origins. You can only go so far if you can't stop anyone. They have great leadership and have the physicality to get punched in the mouth but not quit in the game and battle back while others teams would roll over. Now that the tournament has begun, all we can do is sit back and watch the fireworks because it is going to be a magical competition filled with buzzer beaters and game defining moments. Rivalries will be renewed and born.



# SENIORS OF THE MONTH



*Martina Liu, January*

Some of the things I'll miss the most about JMHS include band, APUSH, and completing 212 essays over the course of one month. Most of all I'll miss my daily vending machine splurges, my regular parking spot (that isn't actually my regular spot because I always get up too late), and the ability to say that I was the only AP Spanish student at JMHS this year.



*James Tracy, January*

It's hard to pinpoint my biggest accomplishment at JMHS. Ironically enough, I believe it is winning senior of the month. It's an honor to be placed among the other amazing students in this elite group. Like them, I keep up my grades, even in AP classes, and am involved in many extracurriculars. From clubs, to sports, to study sessions, to honor societies, I get to school early and stay late most every day. This award neatly wraps all I do into one honor, putting me side by side with the best and brightest of JMHS. Although simply being involved is rewarding, being honored as senior of the month is my greatest accomplishment.



*Samantha Trent, February*

What I will miss the most about JMHS is the culture. The school spirit is infectious, and I would not trade my experience as a jaguar for anything. The school spirit not only has a strong presence for sports and activities, but also academics. The culture of the school encourages strong academic performances by setting a standard of excellence. Having jaguar pride also means excelling in all the areas that make someone a well-rounded individual. This has truly helped me be successful not only academically, but also in becoming the young woman I am today. I cannot thank JMHS enough for all of the wonderful memories and experiences it has given me, and I know I will be able to look back on them fondly for the rest of my life.



*Brandon Bonilla, February*

If I could have the opportunity to have any superpower in the world I would have to choose the ability to control time. Steve Jobs once said, "My favorite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time." Being able to control time would allow me to of course go back in time when I make a stupid mistake, or go into the future when everything is dragging on; but I think where the ability to control time really becomes beneficial is when you can actually stop it. What makes the ability to control time so much better than say... flight or teleportation, is that you have the ability to control possibly the most valuable thing mankind can spend. With the ability to stop time I would be able to finally be able to breathe for a minute, look around, and take in my surroundings for what they really are and not take them for granted; because more sooner than later those surroundings will be swept away; and no sooner than those new surroundings have arrived are they swept away also.